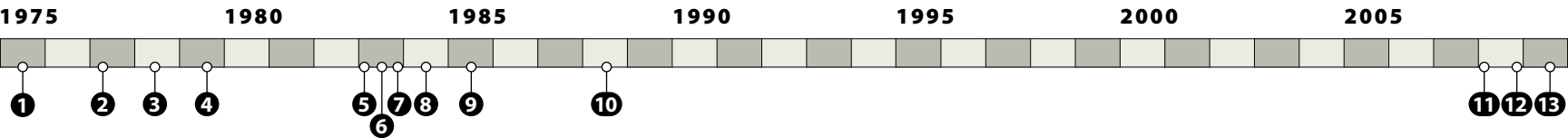


Key dates for the mall



1 June 1975: Dedication of the downtown mall, which closes two blocks of South Main Street from Elm to Mulberry and two blocks of West State from South Wyman to South Church. It's still about six weeks from completion.

2 Feb. 1977: Four Squires Men's Clothes at 203 W. State St. announces that it is closing because of declining business.

3 1978: Complaints about the mall reach a crescendo. Several City Council members and downtown businesses urge that it be demolished.

4 July 1979: Fannie May Candy Shop, 313 W. State St., closes.

5 Jan. 1983: F.W. Woolworth Co., known as a "five & dime," closes. Lindstrom Travel Agency, a stalwart of downtown for 55 years, also closes.

6 Dec. 1983: Camera Craft, a downtown staple since 1930, must move from 311 W. State St. to a new location on South Church Street to make way for the State and Main parking deck. Its new location had been vacated by three other stores: Katherin's, Milady's and Ackerman Shoes. It is hoped the parking deck will revive downtown.

7 Late 1983: The city decides to reopen the State Street portion of the mall. The move requires the relocation of the Symbol from the middle of State Street near Wyman to Sinissippi Park.

8 Jan. 1984: Demolition begins on the State Street mall.

9 March 1985: Traffic rolls again on State Street.

10 Aug. 1988: City approves the demolition of a building at the corner of Elm Street and the pedestrian mall that houses Masters Shoes.

11 Feb. 4, 2008: Aldermen approve an engineering study to design improvements to South Main from Green Street to Park Avenue. One possibility under consideration is removing the mall and reopening Main Street to traffic.

12 July 7, 2008: City Council votes to reallocate unspent riverwalk funds to the downtown mall revamp. None of the city's five proposals for South Main include keeping the street closed to traffic.

13 June 10, 2009: Dignitaries turn the first ceremonial scoops of earth during a groundbreaking to remove the last piece of the pedestrian mall on South Main.